



**Virginia Asian Advisory Board Meeting**  
**Monday, January 23rd, 2023**  
**12:00 PM- 4:00 PM**  
**Virtual**

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Zoom Link: Topic: VAAB Meeting  
Time: 12 PM

Join ZoomGov Meeting:

<https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1609533728?pwd=QW9SUHQ5ek9nT2FKdDNEcEZhcWU1dz09>

**Board Members:**

Dr. Melody Agbisit  
Ms. Suja Amir  
Ms. Laura Beldin  
Dr. Lisa Chen  
Mr. Paul Chhabra  
Ms. Rowena Finn  
Mr. Tom Fitzpatrick  
Dr. Nina Ha  
Mr. Razi Hashmi  
Mr. Justin Lo  
Ms. Salinna Lor  
Mr. Boa (Bobby) Ly  
Mr. Praveendhara (Praveen) Meyyan  
Ms. Carla Okouchi  
Dr. Marie Sankaran Raval  
Mr. Ssunny Shah  
Professor Da L. "Linda" Sheth  
Ms. Quan Schneider  
Mr. Jewan "Jack Jewan" Tiwawri  
Mr. Pient Tran  
Mr. Henry Yuan

**In Attendance Virtual**

**Virginia Asian Advisory Board Members:**

Dr. Melody Agbisit  
Ms. Suja Amir  
Ms. Laura Beldin  
Dr. Lisa Chen  
Ms. Rowena Finn

Mr. Tom Fitzpatrick  
Dr. Nina Ha  
Ms. Salinna Lor  
Mr. Praveendhara (Praveen) Meyyan  
Ms. Carla Okouchi  
Mr. Ssunny Shah  
Ms. Quan Schneider  
Mr. Jewan “Jack Jewan” Tiwawri  
Mr. Henry Yuan

Ex-Officio Community Member(s):  
Wyatt Toehlke, Assistant Secretary of Commerce and Trade  
Tori Mabry

Secretary of the Commonwealth’s Office  
Gloria Senecal  
Office of the Attorney General of VA  
Justin Bell

12:00 PM	Call to order	Nina Ha
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12:13 PM	Move to Elect new board members	
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Candidates Speaking for 2-3 minutes  
Nina Ha for Chair

Rowena Finn for Vice Chair

Melody Agbisit/Lisa Chen for Treasurer

Salinna Lor for Secretary

Vote as a slate:  
Jack Tiwawri asked to be able to vote as a slate for the candidates who were nominated.

Carla Okouchi seconded the motion.

Updated list of nominees and those who got elected:

**Chair**  
Nina Ha

**Vice Chair**  
Rowena Finn

**Secretary**  
Salinna Lor

**Co-Treasurer**  
Lisa Chen  
Melody Agbisit

Unanimous Vote for the new leaders.

Roll Call:

Dr. Melody Agbisit  
Ms. Suja Amir  
Ms. Laura Beldin  
Dr. Lisa Chen  
Ms. Rowena Finn  
Mr. Tom Fitzpatrick  
Dr. Nina Ha  
Ms. Salinna Lor  
Mr. Praveendhara (Praveen) Meyyan  
Ms. Carla Okouchi  
Mr. Ssunny Shah  
Ms. Quan Schneider  
Mr. Jewan “Jack Jewan” Tiwawri  
Mr. Henry Yuan

12:31	Vote on December Meeting Minutes and Adopt December’s Minutes	Nina
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Vote for last minutes:  
All in favor of December’s minutes

Unanimous (All who were in attendance.)

Dr. Melody Agbisit  
Ms. Suja Amir  
Ms. Laura Beldin  
Dr. Lisa Chen  
Ms. Rowena Finn  
Mr. Tom Fitzpatrick  
Dr. Nina Ha  
Ms. Salinna Lor  
Mr. Praveendhara (Praveen) Meyyan  
Ms. Carla Okouchi  
Mr. Ssunny Shah

Ms. Quan Schneider  
Mr. Jewan “Jack Jewan” Tiwawri  
Mr. Henry Yuan

12:32                      Review of Meeting with the Governor                      Suja Amir

Governor wanted all of the recommendations on one page.  
Governor was excited about the behavioral health connection.  
Suja Amir got to meet Martin Brown - specifically interested in working with the Business and Trade people. Challenge expressed: It was difficult to do business in VA. Martin Brown sent regret for not joining the meeting.

12:39                      Board Administration Update                      Gloria Senecal  
Housekeeping:  
Mandatory RSVP in order to have a quorum for all meetings in the future. If there are not enough RSVPs to make quorum, then the meeting will be canceled, especially if it's in-person.

Code of Conduct. Conduct ourselves well. Please review the Codes of Conduct. See the following: [Secretary of the Commonwealth - Code of Conduct](#)

Please fill out financial disclosures, otherwise, you will be fined.

Travel reimbursements:  
There's a certain way it will be accepted.  
Gloria has created a template to fill out the travel reimbursements.  
Gloria will send out the template with examples. Fill out the form digitally.  
Make sure to keep all of the receipts and keep a record of all of the travel reimbursements. Need all of the documentation together.

By code, there is not a certain minimum requirement of board meetings per year.

Future meetings: Co-hosting events and coordinating with Gloria.

March 13th in Richmond  
May in Virginia Beach

Schedule out the subcommittee meetings. Make sure to schedule out the subcommittee meetings in advance so that Ex-Officio members can join.

Governor gave the State of the Commonwealth speech.

Gloria will send the link to the speech.

12:50                      Strategic Planning                      Chair and Board

Larger Picture for the next year:

Areas to work on for the next year:

Education Committee:

Education and Health to work together not only in VAAB but across the other Boards. Mental health is a priority.

Need a joint committee meeting. How many community members can attend the joint meeting. Large summit/series of workgroups. Bring plan to Justin Bell in order to coordinate.

Chairs cross-collaborate.

Chair should reach out to the other chairs to conduct a fact-finding session. Review the Board Reports of the other Advisory Board. Bring the other board members to the meetings.

Chairs from the Education Committees can meet or conduct a forum.

Education and Mental Health Experts can share information. Bring in student voices. Have Chair/Vice-Chair facilitating conversations.

Business: Laura Beldin

Is involved with D.C. and Maryland. Maryland offers grants to AAPI businesses. What are some ways to give communities more access to opportunities.

Ask Martin Brown to attend the next Board meeting.

Ask Wyatt to also attend and share resources.

Commerce and Trade Committee:

A comment by a Board member mentioned when Commerce and Trade was raised: Be careful to not espouse xenophobia [when discussing issues of National Security.]. Promotion of business and commerce for the AAPI communities. Be careful with anti-AAPI rhetoric.

Health Committee: Offer more public discussions. Has a list of topics. Solidify invitations for community outreach.

Health Outreach: Sunday before the board meeting.

Working on getting speakers.

Civic Engagement Committee:

Reviewing this committee. Do we need to have a Civic Engagement Committee? What is the charge of this? Highlighted the challenges of representation at all three levels of government.

What does it look like for access in governance? Access to the ballot.

What are the other avenues? Housing Committee?  
People can participate in more than one committee.

Reassessing the different committees.  
There's a bill to get more translations for so many other civic needs.

- \*A lot of people are afraid to ask for resources.
- \*\*Educate and share that there is a new Board for New Americans.
- \*\*\* Addressing anti-Asian hate

This is a volunteer position. It's important to support one another.

Having conversations about what's going on in the community is important.

What are the big ticket items?  
What are some other issues that need to be addressed?

1:18 PM      Break

1:30              New Board Business                              Chair and Board

Social Media Managers:  
Salinna Lor and Henry Yuan Co-Managers of Facebook

For Communication Purposes:  
Can only communicate via bcc: to more than one committee member.

One-on-One conversations are okay between board members.  
Need to avoid having three people in any type of communication.  
Go through Justin Bell or Gloria Senecal to arrange any meeting that is 3 or more people.  
E-mail Justin Bell if you have to coordinate an event or program.  
Justin can help to stay in compliance, legally. Justin Bell's contact: [JBell@oag.state.va.us](mailto:JBell@oag.state.va.us)

Gloria can help with the organization.

Will all of the Boards have access to contact information for all of the other Boards?

Reminder for upcoming VAAB meetings:  
**January 23- Virtual 12-4:30 PM**  
**March 13- Richmond 12-4:30 PM**  
**May 21- Virginia Beach-- Town Hall time: TBD**  
**May 22- Virginia Beach -- 10 AM-2:30 PM**  
**July 31- Virtual - 12- 4:30 PM**  
**August- Report Deadline**  
**September 18 - Richmond -- Possible presentation of the report**  
**October 16-- Blacksburg/ Possible town hall/ Time TBD**

Jack was invited to the Capital on January 10th to celebrate all of the AAPI members who were elected to Congress. House of Delegates had a ceremony. Could the Board have an event like that? Here's the event that occurred:

<https://www.apaics.org/event-details/ceremonial-swearing-in-welcome-reception>

To do this, we would need to pre plan for this event.

Possible idea. If a session is taking place, the VAAB can get on the agenda to be recognized. It's a way to engage with the community.

New Chairs for the Subcommittees

Health Committee: Salinna

Civic Engagement Committee: Lisa Chen and Tom Fitzpatrick (Co-Chairs)

Business Committee: Henry

Education Committee: Rowena

To be considered for re-appointment, you need to re-apply.

Recruit for this Board and for other Boards as well.

Create a list and share with Gloria, who can circulate it with her teams. It would be nice to have diverse representation across all of the different Boards.

2 PM	Public Comment	Gloria
2:13 PM	Adjournment	Suja Amir
	Motion to adjourn:	
	Suja	
	Second: Jack	
2:15 PM	Subcommittees	
	Health Committee	
	Civic Engagement Committee	
	Business Committee	
	Education Committee	